

Air defenders hone skills in Greece

Hanau's 5-7th Air Defense Artillery Soldiers train in Crete

By Pfc. Michael J. Taylor
69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade
Public Affairs Office

Soldiers of the Grossauheim-based 5-7th Air Defense Artillery spent a week in Crete in late April, and they weren't working on their suntans.

"Scud on scope," yelled a Tactical Control Officer, and Soldiers scrambled inside their Engagement Control Station. A moment later the Patriot system was ready to engage the type of theater ballistic missile heading toward the defended area.

Defense against aerial threats has long been a part of the U.S. military's strategy during wartime, and the 5-7th ADA, part of the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, practiced defending the skies and working with NATO allies during the Joint Project Optic Windmill VIII exercise at Souda Bay Naval Airbase April 22-29.

JPOW is an air defense interoperability exercise that culminates with a live fire exercise.

"JPOW is an exercise where one man's ideals has grown into the gathering of several nations," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeff Campbell of the Souda Bay Public Affairs Office. That man is Maj. Bart

VanDergraaff, JPOW project officer for the Royal Netherlands air force, who organized the first JPOW as a small theater missile defense exercise in 1996, said Campbell.

In eight years JPOW has grown to be the largest exercise of its kind in Europe. This year's exercise involved over 900 sailors, airmen and Soldiers from more than 10 countries.

"The 69th ADA accounted for approximately 125 Soldiers making up the largest contingent of U.S. Army personnel," said Capt. Shawn T. O'Rourke, the brigade's logistics officer.

"It is not everyday we get to integrate with other nations and other services. We may get a chance to work on occasion with someone from the Navy or the Air Force, or we may come across military personnel from another nation, but in this exercise we were side by side, both professionally and personally," he said.

"All the nations have different air defense systems. We try to hook up all those different systems, get them communicating with each other and perform an integrated air defense mission," said VanDergraaff.



Photo by Pfc. Michael J. Taylor
SpC. Yancy J. Hampton, Battery D, 5-7th ADA, unlocks a launcher during final systems checks before firing a Patriot missile at Souda Bay, Crete.

"The allies in this operation have to become familiar with all the different operating systems, which can be a struggle at first," said Capt. Stavros Doxakis of the Greek air force. "Then once the computers and the people using them are speaking the same language we can start to test out each other's capabilities."

"The key to JPOW is interoperability," said VanDergraaff. "If all the nations can't get on one accord and make things work then it will be that much harder to come together during a wartime situation. Despite interoperability

we also have to be on one accord verbally."

That meant adopting one language, English, as the common means of communication.

"As an American I find it quite amazing that a Danish officer is speaking to a Hungarian officer in English," said Air Force Col. Carroll Lamb Jr., acting Joint Forces Air Component commander. "I am happy about it because we do not seem to have any communication problems between the nations."

When the JPOW exercise was complete, the 5-7th ADA missile

crews prepared for the next event, the Patriot live fire.

"The Patriot live fire is where all the hard work pays off," said SpC. Yancy J. Hampton, a Patriot system operator and maintainer with Battery D, 5-7th ADA. "This is the part where we get to see our equipment work."

Two drone aircraft were launched to simulate theater ballistic missiles. The drones were tracked by radar and engaged by a total of four Patriot missiles in the course of the training.

"It is the best feeling in the world to see a missile fired from the launcher," said Hampton. "We work intimately with the launchers and are required to know the system in and out. The live fire verifies that our equipment is operational."

"This exercise was a big one," said Capt. Chad T. Murray of 69th ADA. "We got the chance to test new procedures, new networking and see the finished product. It was a good exercise to see how everyone else does air defense and how we can merge it together into one operation."

Taking an inside look at Islamic culture

Students of the Arabic Headstart program visit the Hanau Mosque with their teacher, Sawsan Chahrour (right). Students visited the Hanau Turkish/Islamic Union (mosque) on May 17 to learn a little about Islam, the layout of a mosque and the rituals of prayer. The first lesson was that everyone removes his or her shoes before entering the religious facility. It took the Soldiers a few minutes to unlace their combat boots and set them neatly on the shelves which can be found outside all mosques. The students' visit was filmed by a German television crew from Hessischer Rundfunk. A short feature on the Americans' visit aired on the Hessenschau May 19.

Photo by Dennis Johnson





Bulletin board

At the movies June 8-24

Baumholder, Wagon Wheel

June 10 — Never Die Alone (R) 7 p.m.
June 11 — Van Helsing (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 12 — Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG) 4 p.m. Van Helsing (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 13 — Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG) 4 p.m. The Passion Of The Christ (R) 7 p.m.
June 17 — Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind (R) 7 p.m.
June 18 — Troy (R) 7 p.m.
June 19 — The Prince And Me (PG) 4 p.m. Troy (R) 7 p.m.
June 20 — The Prince And Me (PG) 4 p.m. The Ladykillers (R) 7 p.m.
June 24 — Jersey Girl (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Büdingen, Little

June 12 — Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London (PG) 3 p.m.
June 19 — Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG) 3 p.m.

Dexheim, Rhein

June 11 — Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind (R) 7 p.m.
June 12 — Troy (R) 7 p.m.
June 13 — Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG) 3 p.m.
June 18 — Jersey Girl (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 19 — The Prince And Me (PG) 7 p.m.
June 20 — Shrek 2 (PG) 3 p.m.

Friedberg, Old Ironsides

June 10 — Dawn Of The Dead (R) 7 p.m.
June 11 — Walking Tall (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 12 — Harry Potter And The Chamber Of Secrets (PG) 2 p.m. Walking Tall (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 13 — Never Die Alone (R) 7 p.m.
June 17 — Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG) 7 p.m.
June 18 — Man On Fire (R) 7 p.m.
June 19 — Holes (PG) 2 p.m. Man On Fire (R) 7 p.m.
June 20 — Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind (R) 7 p.m.
June 24 — The Prince And Me (PG) 7 p.m.

Giessen, Skyline

June 8-9 — The Alamo (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 11 — Dawn Of The Dead (R) 7 p.m.
June 12 — Never Die Alone (R) 7 p.m.
June 13 — Taking Lives (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 15-16 — Walking Tall (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 18 — The Alamo (PG-13) 7 p.m.
June 19 — The Passion Of The Christ (R) 7 p.m.
June 20 — Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind (R) 7 p.m.
June 22-23 — Man On Fire (R) 7 p.m.

Hanau, Evening Star

June 8 — Dawn Of The Dead (R) 7 p.m.
June 9 — Taking Lives (R) 7 p.m.
June 10 — Never Die Alone (R) 7 p.m.



Princess Fiona nervously introduces her husband Shrek to her parents in "Shrek 2."

June 11 — Day After Tomorrow (PG-13) 7 p.m. Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind (R) 9:30 p.m.

June 12 — Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG) 2 p.m. Day After Tomorrow (PG-13) 7 p.m. The Passion Of The Christ (R) 9:30 p.m.

June 13 — Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG) 4 p.m. Day After Tomorrow (PG-13) 7 p.m.

June 14 — The Passion Of The Christ (R) 7 p.m.

June 15 — Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind (R) 7 p.m.

June 16 — Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG) 7 p.m.

June 17 — Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind (R) 7 p.m.

June 18 — Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban (PG) 12:01 a.m. 3, 6:30 and 10 p.m.

June 19 — The Prince And Me (PG) 2 p.m. Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban (PG) 4:30 and 10 p.m. Jersey Girl (PG-13) 7:30 p.m.

June 20 — The Prince And Me (PG) 4 p.m. Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban (PG) 7 p.m.

June 21 — The Ladykillers (R) 7 p.m.

June 22 — Jersey Girl (PG-13) 7 p.m.

June 23 — The Prince And Me (PG) 7 p.m.
June 24 — The Ladykillers (R) 7 p.m.

Rhein Main, Gardens

June 9-10 — Shrek 2 (PG) 7 p.m.

June 11 — The Passion Of The Christ (R) 7 p.m.

June 12 — Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG) 5 p.m. Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind (R) 7:30 p.m.

June 13 — Van Helsing (PG-13) 7 p.m.

June 17 — Day After Tomorrow (PG-13) 7 p.m.

June 18 — Troy (R) 7 p.m.

June 19 — The Prince And Me (PG) 5 p.m. The Ladykillers (PG) 7:30 p.m.

June 20 — Jersey Girl (PG-13) 7 p.m.

June 22-23 — Harry Potter And The

Prisoner Of Azkaban (PG) 7 p.m.

Wackernheim, McCully

June 9 — Van Helsing (PG-13) 7 p.m.

June 23 — Troy (R) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Flyers

June 10 — The Passion Of The Christ (R) 7 p.m.

June 11 — Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG) 7 p.m.

June 12 — Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind (R) 7 p.m.

June 17 — Day After Tomorrow (PG-13) 7 p.m.

June 18 — The Prince And Me (PG) 7 p.m.

June 19 — Jersey Girl (PG-13) 7 p.m.

June 24 — Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban (PG) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Taunus

June 8 — Dawn Of The Dead (R) 7 p.m.

June 9 — Never Die Alone (R) 7 p.m.

June 10 — Dawn Of The Dead (R) 7 p.m.

June 11 — Shrek 2 (PG) 7 p.m. Dawn Of The Dead (R) 9:30 p.m.

June 12 — Shrek 2 (PG) 4 and 7 p.m. The Passion Of The Christ (R) 9:30 p.m.

June 13 — Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG) 4 p.m. Shrek 2 (PG) 7 p.m.

June 14-15 — Shrek 2 (PG) 7 p.m.

June 16 — Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind (R) 7 p.m.

June 17 — Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG) 7 p.m.

June 18 — Day After Tomorrow (PG-13) 7 p.m. Jersey Girl (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.

June 19 — The Prince And Me (PG) 4 p.m. Day After Tomorrow (PG-13) 7 p.m. Jersey Girl (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.

June 20 — The Prince And Me (PG) 4 p.m. Day After Tomorrow (PG-13) 7 p.m.

June 21 — Day After Tomorrow (PG-13) 7 p.m.

June 22 — Jersey Girl (PG-13) 7 p.m.

June 23 — The Ladykillers (R) 7 p.m.

June 24 — The Prince And Me (PG) 7 p.m.

Movie plots

Shrek 2 (PG) — After returning from their honeymoon, Shrek and Fiona learn Fiona's parents want to invite them to their kingdom, called Far Far Away, in this sequel. The catch? Fiona's parents are unaware their daughter married a 700-pound ogre. Starring the voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, John Lithgow, John Cleese, Julie Andrews and Antonio Banderas.

The Day After Tomorrow (PG-13) — Climatologist Jack Hall's (Dennis Quaid) research indicates global warming could trigger a catastrophic shift in the planet's climate. While Jack warns the White House of the impending climate shift, his 17-year-old son Sam (Jake Gyllenhaal) finds himself trapped in New York City. He must now cope with the severe flooding and plummeting temperatures in Manhattan. But not even Jack is prepared for what is about to happen — to him, his son and his planet.

Jersey Girl (PG-13) — Ollie Trinke (Ben Affleck) is at the top of his game as a young music promoter. He is a workaholic and a silver-tongued expert at manipulating the press. At a company Christmas party, Ollie meets Gertrude Steiny (Jennifer Lopez), a book editor for a New York publisher. They begin a whirlwind romance that changes the course of his life.

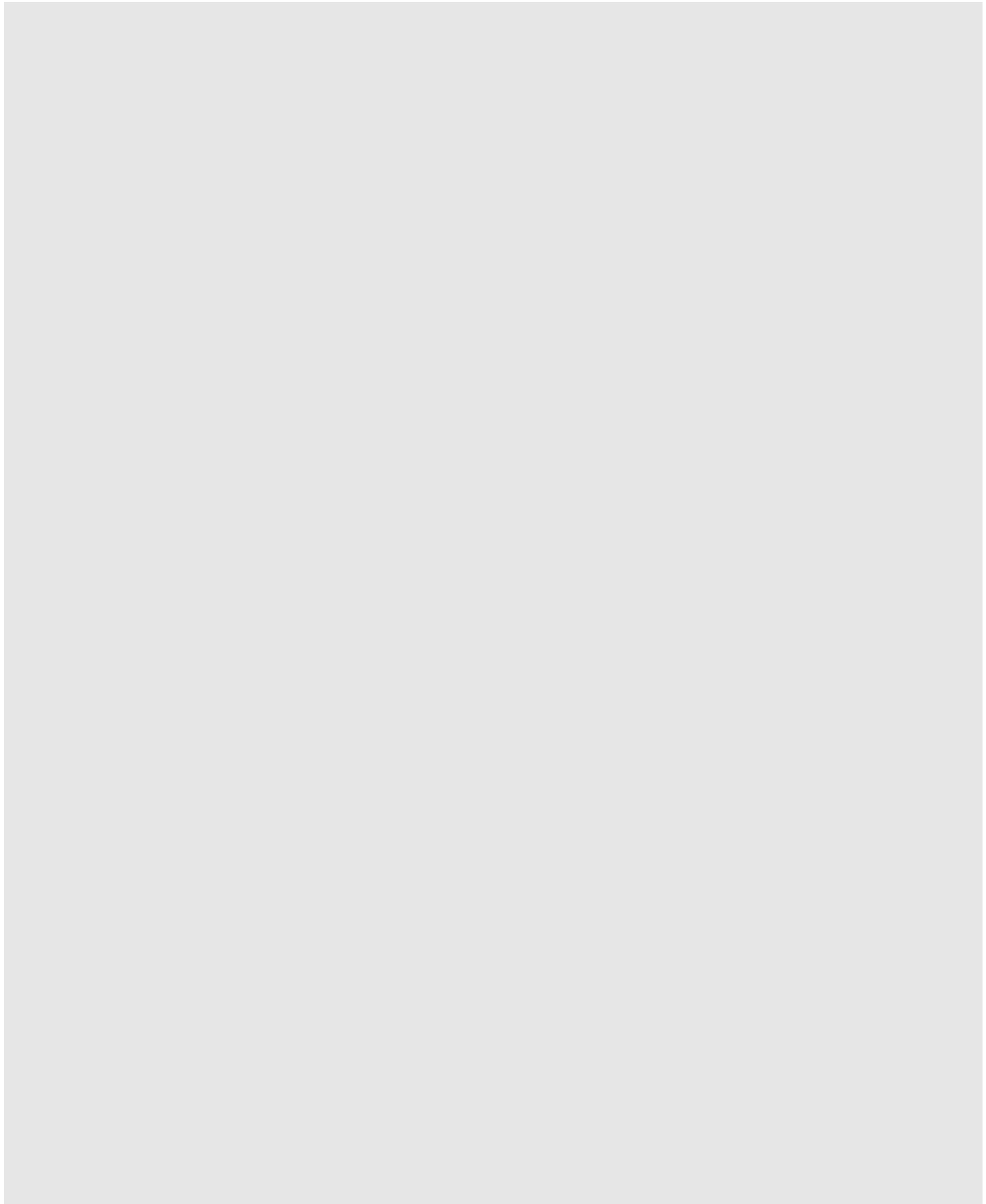
Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind (R) — Joel (Jim Carrey) is stunned to discover his girlfriend Clementine (Kate Winslet) has had her memories of their tumultuous relationship erased. Out of desperation he contacts the inventor of the process to have Clementine removed from his own memory. But as Joel's memories progressively disappear, he rediscovers their earlier passion. From deep within the recesses of his brain, Joel attempts to escape the procedure.

Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban (PG) — Harry Potter and his friends Ron and Hermione return as teenagers to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry for their third year of study, where they delve into the mystery surrounding an escaped prisoner who poses a dangerous threat to the young wizard. The third film episode stars Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Gary Oldman, David Thewlis, Robbie Coltrane and Emma Thompson.

The Prince And Me (PG) — Paige Morgan (Julia Stiles), a pre-med student from Wisconsin, is on the fast track to creating the life she's always wanted. Eddie (Luke Mably), the crown prince of Denmark, is trying to escape a life he never chose. Focused on her future, Paige knows exactly what she wants — to graduate and study medicine at Johns Hopkins. But of course love gets in the way of her plans.

Movies and times subject to change by local theaters. For the most up-to-date schedule visit the ASG's website (see address below).

Herald Union classifieds



Young Authors converge on Rhein-Main

Display projects, consider creativity

By David Ruderman

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

The school year drew to a close with a series of treats and a day in the spotlight for scores of Heidelberg District elementary and middle school students who attended the Young Authors Conference May 20-21 at Rhein-Main Air Base.

"I think we have a very robust attitude to literature," said Clare B. Dunkle, a Germany-based American writer, author of "The Hollow Kingdom" and, along with Irish storyteller Niall de Burca, one of the featured presenters at the conference.

"We Americans take for granted that you should ask questions, find out why and share information," said Dunkle. "Yankee ingenuity really is Yankee ingenuity."

Participants were selected by language arts instructors in their schools to write, illustrate and bind their own "books" for display at the annual event. Ingenuity, Yankee or otherwise, was very much in evidence.

"I told my students you can't judge a book by its cover, but people attending won't have the time to read the whole story, so this time you might want to work on the cover," said Wiesbaden Middle School seventh-grade teacher Jane Tucker.

The homemade covers and pages embodied a range of techniques, from crayon drawings to handmade fringed paper. Many of the young authors wrote about matters close to home — themselves and their families.

"It's about my family," said Wiesbaden American Middle School sixth-grader Kelly Snyder, describing her contribution. "It's 'The Snyder House Rules.' It's mostly about my dad in his childhood. He had eight brothers and sisters so their household was mostly chaotic a lot of the time. He's told me lots of stories," said Snyder, who based her book on some of them.

"I like to write a lot, but this is the first time I actually got it down, typed it up and put it together," said Snyder, who admires J.R.R. Tolkien, J.K. Rowling, Louis Sachar and Eva Ibbotson among other writers.



Photo by Karl Weisel

Writer Clare B. Dunkle discusses the intricacies behind publishing her book, "The Hollow Kingdom," with middle school students during the Young Authors Conference at Rhein-Main May 21. Scores of students displayed their self-produced books during the annual event.

"Starting it is the hardest part," said Snyder's fellow WAMS sixth-grader, Mary Laugesen, whose "Behind the Looking Glass" was on display. "You don't know how to start the first line."

Laugesen's story, dealing with the difficulties of adolescence and growth, was also couched in terms of a family narrative.

"It's mainly talking about Mimi's family and the problems she's having. People think her mother is insane because she said she saw God. Then her father starts drinking seriously after that. Then she's tricked by a boy and starts putting herself down all the time. One day she's coming home from school, but she doesn't want to go home because she knows her father is drunk and he'll abuse her, so she finds an empty house and goes in there. Upstairs there's a mirror and her reflection starts talking to her," said Laugesen.

The young protagonist is drawn into the mirror by the siren song of her own reflection and has to find a way to return to being

herself. "She has to find in herself sadness, happiness and anger, but she doesn't know that until it happens," said Laugesen.

In addition to discussing literary matters with authors and observing each other's creations, students enjoyed puppet theater presentations staged by Heidelberg area elementary school students. A troupe of eighth-graders from Hanau Middle School also presented a symposium of historical figures under the title "Madness, Power and Some Guy Named Socrates."

"They picked a character out of history they were interested in," said Hanau Middle School teacher Ruth Callahan, who coached the eighth-graders. "Then they wrote the sketches and then they sat down together, about a month later, and wrote the script."

"I tried not to laugh with the other kids," said KC Medina, who portrayed Queen Juana the Mad of Spain. "I think it was funny, so

they got more out of it than if it were taught by a history teacher."

Medina learned a thing or two as well while working on the play. "I learned that princesses, the kind they show in the movies, didn't have perfect lives. I also learned how some people are really weird. Don't mess with people who are weird — if people are crazy, they have their own reasons," she said.

Other characters represented included Sir William Wallace, Emperor Commodus, Queen Elizabeth I of England, Mary Queen of Scots, Catherine the Great and, of course, Socrates.

"They did good ... like the funny stuff. I liked it," said Hanau Middle School seventh-grader Monte Morton.

Morton's own creation presented another look at the uncertainty and searching that is a part of early adolescent life. Its title was "To Be Real."

Spotlight on Young Authors



School bits

School year ends

Department of Defense Dependents Schools finish the year's instruction June 9. Registration for the 2004-2005 academic year continues at all 104th Area Support Group schools. Classes resume Sept. 7. DoDDS-Europe has announced plans to offer integrated summer programs that focus on reading, language arts and math to support families affected by the extension of 1st Armored Division Soldiers in Iraq. Students in kindergarten through eighth-grade can enroll for sessions to be held Monday through Friday, June 28 through July 23, from 9 a.m. to noon. There is no cost to attend, but families must



make transportation and lunch arrangements on their own. High school age students having academic difficulties in math or English can apply for online courses in English 11, English 12, Algebra I and Geometry. The cost of the program is paid for by DoDDS, and students may use their home or other computer connection to do the work. Call your school for details and assistance. (DoDDS-Europe Release)

Space available registration

Sponsors with children in Space Available Categories 2, 3 and 4 who attended Department of Defense Dependents Schools in the Heidelberg District this year are eligible to re-register for school year 2004-2005. Children may attend the same school or feeder school until the sponsor's DEROS. Children of sponsors who received an exception to feeder plan registration last year may attend the same school. Consult your school, Housing Office and school bus office for details. All new sponsors in these categories may enroll

their children at anytime, but enrollment may not be confirmed until the end of the first week of classes in September. (Heidelberg District Superintendent's Office Release)

German Host 2004

Spaces are available to participate in Host Nation 2004, a two-part orientation program hosted by the Rhineland-Palatinate Ministry of Education, Women and Youth, to be held July 4-18. It is especially suited for commanders, teachers, Public Affairs, host nation and international relations officers. The first week of seminars takes place in Mainz, the second in Berlin. The focus is on the German education system, economic challenges and trans-Atlantic cooperation, the German political scene, German unification and its consequences, the European Union and international relations. For details call mil 370-8725 or send email to beldermannm@ima-e.army.mil.

Sports and leisure

Take a hike

By Donald Seltzer
Special to the Herald Union



Midweek, June 9-10

Haiger-Offdilln — Giessen wanderers can enjoy a relaxing walk after work with Wednesday's late start times. Take Autobahn 45 to Dillenburg to connect with B-253 and an unnumbered road to Fronhausen. Follow another unnumbered road to Weidelbach and Offdilln.

Start: Dorfgemeinschaftshaus **Wednesday:** 1-7 p.m. (5 and 10 km) **Thursday:** 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. (5, 10 and 20 km) **Trail:** Very hilly, woods **Award:** Model truck.

Mainz-Bretzenheim — This walk south-southwest of Mainz presents an after-work hiking possibility for readers nearby. Take Autobahns 60 and 63 (at Autobahn Kreuz Mainz) toward Mainz. Shortly after the Autobahn turns into B-40, look for the start at the Alte Ziegelei. Parking will be about 200 meters around the corner.

Start: Alte Ziegelei **Thursday:** 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (5 and 11 km) and 8 a.m. to noon (20 km) **Trail:** Flat, fields and some woods **Award:** From previous events.

Weekend of June 12-13

Bad Kreuznach — Former residents will enjoy a visit to their one-time home. Trails run through city parks and woods, and along the Ellerbach River. From points east take Autobahn 60 west to Bingen and follow B-41 to Bad Kreuznach. Follow IVV directional signs to the start.

Start: Sonderschule on Ellerbach Strasse **Saturday:** 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. (5 and 10 km) and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (20 km) **Sunday:** 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (5, 10 and 20 km) **Trail:** Fairly hilly, fields and woods **Award:** From previous events.

Weekend of June 19-20

Fulda-Haimbach — Readers in Hanau, Büdingen and Gelnhausen will enjoy this walk relatively close to home. The start is about two miles northwest of the former Sickels Army Air Field in Haimbach. From Hanau take B-40 toward Fulda, past what used to be Downs Barracks, to pick up an unnumbered road leading to Sickels and Haimbach.

Start: Sportlerheim **Saturday:** 1-7 p.m. (5 and 11 km) and 1-4 p.m. (20 km) **Sunday:** 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. (5, 10 and 20 km) **Trail:** Hilly, fields and woods **Award:** From previous events.

Wonsheim — This walk near Bad Kreuznach is easy to reach from Wiesbaden and Darmstadt. Take Autobahn 63 toward Alzey and Kaiserslautern and exit at Erbes-Büdesheim. Follow an unnumbered road to Wonsheim and Bad Kreuznach to reach the start.

Start: Sportheim **Saturday:** 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. (5 and 10 km) and 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. (20 km) **Sunday:** 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. (5 and 10 km) and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (20 km) **Trail:** Somewhat hilly, fields **Award:** From previous events.

Höchst-Hassenroth — This event was formerly located at Otzberg-Hering, but has moved a little farther into the scenic Odenwald. Drivers should take the Eberstadt exit of Autobahn 5 and B-426, or the Reinheim/Rossdorf exit of B-26. IVV signs lead past Hering to Hassenroth.

Start: Mehrzweckhalle **Saturday and Sunday:** 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. (5, 10 and 20 km) **Trail:** Hilly, mostly woods **Award:** Doll.

Niederwörresbach — Volksmarchers in Idar-Oberstein won't have far to go to enjoy scenic trails at this event. Follow an unnumbered road through Gerach or, alternately, through Vollmersbach and Veitsrodt.

Start: Sportzentrum **Saturday:** 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. (6 and 10 km) and 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. (20 km) **Sunday:** 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. (6 and 10 km) and 6 a.m. to noon (20 km) **Trail:** Hilly, mostly woods **Award:** Decorative votive holder.

Weekend of June 26-27

Darmstadt — This walk takes place the weekend before Darmstadt's Heinerfest — July 1-5. Information on the fest, annual tradition, is available in German on the web at www.darmstaedterheinerfest.de. Take B-26 or Autobahns 67 or 5 to reach Darmstadt and follow IVV signs to the start.

Start: SG Eiche at Kronstädter Weg 12 **Saturday and Sunday:** 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. (5 and 10 km), 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. (20 km) and 6-8 a.m. (42 km) **Trail:** Flat, mostly stroller-friendly, fields and woods **Award:** Model truck (shorter trails) or patch and certificate (marathon).

Weierbach — Events in the Idar-Oberstein area feature awards incorporating the region's well known gemstones. From points east head toward Bad Kreuznach on Autobahn 60 and B-41. Continue on B-41 toward Idar-Oberstein and Kirn to reach Weierbach. From Idar-Oberstein take a short drive on B-41 toward Bad Kreuznach to the start.

Start: Sporthalle am Festplatz **Saturday:** 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. (5 and 10 km) and 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. (20 km) **Sunday:** 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. (5, 10 and 20 km) **Trail:** Very hilly, woods and local neighborhoods **Award:** Bowl.

Weekend of July 5-6

Langenlonsheim — This event is midway between Bad Kreuznach and Bingen. Follow B-41 and B-48 north to the start. From points east take Autobahns 60 to Bingen and 61 toward Koblenz. Exit at Dorsheim and backtrack a bit toward Laubenheim to pick up B-48.

Start: Gemeindehalle **Saturday:** 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. (6, 10 and 20 km) **Sunday:** 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. (6, 10 and 20 km) **Trail:** Fairly hilly, fields and woods **Award:** Stuffed toy bear.

Ober-Ramstadt/Rohrbach — The *Take a hike* feature began 13 years ago this weekend with notice of this event at the suggestion of a former editor. Readers are extended a special invitation to enjoy scenic 6-, 10- and 20-kilometer trails on the edge of the scenic Odenwald. The walk is well liked by all participants for its enjoyable trails and friendly start hall atmosphere. Take the Eberstadt exit of Autobahn 5 and B-426 or the Reinheim/Rossdorf exit of B-26. IVV signs lead to the start at Rohrbach.

Start: Bürgerhaus Rohrbach **Saturday:** Noon to 5 p.m. (6, 10 and 20 km) **Sunday:** 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. (6, 10 and 20 km) **Trail:** Somewhat hilly, stroller-friendly in dry weather, forests and fields **Award:** Model truck.

Weekend of July 10-11

Sohren — Events in the Hunsrück area are always pretty and this one should be no exception. Head to the B-50 using the Rheinböllen exit of Autobahn 61 or B-421, and drive toward Bernkastel-Kues. Sohren is at the bottom of a triangle formed by routes B-421, B-327 and B-50.

Start: Bürgerhalle **Saturday:** 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. (6 and 10 km) and 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. (20 km) **Sunday:** 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. (6 and 10 km) and 6 a.m. to noon (20 km) **Trail:** Fairly hilly, woods and fields **Award:** From previous events.

Wiesbaden-Naurod — This event offers a Sunday-only walk on scenic trails in the Taunus region. Take the B-455 from Wiesbaden to reach Naurod. From points east take Autobahn 3 toward Köln and exit at Wiesbaden/Niedernhausen and drive a short two kilometers to the start.

Start: Kellershopfalle **Trail:** Hilly, woods **Sunday:** 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. (6 and 10 km) and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (20 km) **Award:** From previous events.

Weekend of July 17-18

Arbergen-Panrod — This event north of Wiesbaden, in the scenic Naturpark Rhein-Taunus, is well worth the effort to reach it. Take Autobahn 3 to exit at Bad Camberg exit and follow an unnumbered road to Panrod. Wiesbaden readers may alternately follow B-417 toward Limburg and an unnumbered road through Ketterschwabach to Panrod.

Start: Palmbachhalle **Saturday and Sunday:** 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. (6 and 10 km), 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. (20 km) and 6-11 a.m. (30 km) **Trail:** Hilly, woods **Award:** From previous events.

Spall — This event offers an unusual third day of walking in the area roughly between Idar-Oberstein and Bad Kreuznach. A late afternoon trail is available Friday in addition to regular weekend volksmarching. Take the B-41 toward Waldböckelheim (west of Bad Kreuznach). Pick up an unnumbered road north through Bockenau and Allenfeld to Spall. IVV directional signs will be available from the Rheinböllen and Waldlaubersheim exits of Autobahn 61.

Start: Fest tent **Friday:** 3-7 p.m. (6 and 10 km) **Saturday:** 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. (6, 10 and 20 km) **Sunday:** 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. (6 and 10 km) and 7 a.m. to noon (20 km) **Trail:** Fairly hilly, fields and woods **Award:** Children's outdoor chair.

Wölfershausen — You'll find a trio of events — walking, bicycling and swimming — not far from NATO's former front line of defense at this event north-northeast of Fulda and east of Bad Hersfeld. Take the Fulda-Nord exit of Autobahn 7 and follow B-27 and unnumbered roads through Hünfeld, Eiterfeld and Schenklengsfeld to Wölfershausen. Alternatively, take the Friedewald exit of Autobahn 4 and an unnumbered road toward Heringen.

Start: Gemeinschaftshaus Wölfershausen and Schwimmbad Heringen **Saturday:** 4-6 p.m. (6 and 10 km, plus swim) **Sunday:** 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. (6 and 10 km), 6-11 a.m. (20 km) 10-11 a.m. (cycling) and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (swim) **Trail:** Hilly trails, woods and fields **Award:** IVV credit only.

Questions? Send email to volksmarch@hotmail.com.



Frankfurt's English Theater presents "Kat and the Kings." See right for details.

Things to do

Jazz Fest in Bingen

The town of Bingen features a three-day jazz festival, "Bingen Swingt," June 25-27. More than 40 jazz bands including the Count Basie Orchestra, Charlie Mariano Quintet, Joy Fleming and Pete York Quartet will be featured. For information call civ (06721) 184 205 or visit www.bingenswingt.de.

English Theater

Frankfurt's English Theater presents the musical "Kat and the Kings" through July 16. Call civ (069) 2423 1614 for reservations.

Praise Fest in Hanau

Hanau's Fliegerhorst Chapel hosts its

Contemporary Service Monthly Praise Fest June 13 at 6 p.m. Child watch will be provided for children up to age 3. Call mil 323-2925.

USO adventures

Rhein Main Area USOs feature the following trips and events: **A walking tour of the Rheingau** June 12; **Trier By Train** June 12; **Opel Zoo** June 13; **Poland Shopping Extravaganza** June 18-20; **Bastogne, Belgium and the Battle of the Bulge** June 19; **Warner Brothers Movieworld** June 21, **Evelin's Wellness Paradise** June 21; **Phantasialand** June 26 and **Roman Aachen** June 26. Stop by a local USO office in Hanau, Wiesbaden, Rhein Main or the Frankfurt Flughafen to sign up.

'Baby' at Keller Theater

Giessen's Keller Theater presents the musical comedy "Baby" June 11, 12, 17, 18

and 19. Call mil 343-6515/6400 for tickets.

Hanau Lamboyfest

Hanau holds its annual Lamboyfest in the downtown area from Freiheitsplatz to Schlossplatz featuring live music, refreshments and more June 11-13.

Free Strasbourg trip

Giessen Outdoor Recreation and the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers have teamed up to provide a free trip to Strasbourg, France, June 19 for military spouses and children. Call mil 343-6515.

'Anything Goes' in Hanau

Hanau's Five Pfennig Theater presents the musical "Anything Goes" June 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19. Call mil 322-8031/8209 or stop by the Hanau USO for tickets.

Sports and leisure



Hanau's Gail Gilderoy is the first woman to finish the Dexheim Biathlon. Right: Competitors take off on the first leg of the biathlon.



Clarinetist tames 30-K biathlon

Athletes praise conditions at fourth annual Dexheim competition

Story and photos by Karl Weisel
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Although the mud and heavy winds were missing this year, the 20 athletes who turned out for the fourth annual 30-kilometer biathlon at Dexheim's Anderson Barracks May 29 still faced their share of challenges.

Laid out over 10 kilometers through wheat fields and vineyards, the course featured dusty terrain with plenty of uphill and downhill under an increasingly warm spring sun.

"I liked this course much better than last year — the dryness — the way it was measured out — it was right on," said Benjamin Martinelli, the fastest finisher with a time of one hour, 15 minutes and 42 seconds.

The U.S. Army Europe Band clarinet player, who also competes in triathlons, said his goal is to make the All-Army team. "This was my first multi-sport event of the year. I like Army sports.

"I felt pretty good," he added, after completing the two 10-K bike loops, topped off by a 10-K run. "I went a little hard on the bike today. Maybe I didn't do as well as I could have if I had gone easier on the bike, but I did OK."

Martinelli added that while more competition would have raised the bar, he wasn't disappointed. "I was hoping there would have been more, but that's OK — I can race against the clock."

Dexheim's Morgan Montano of Company E, 123rd Main Support Battalion, turned in the second fastest time, completing the race less than four minutes behind Martinelli

at 1:19:34.

"I arrived in country two weeks ago. I run most of the time — don't ride a bike at all," said Montano. "I'm trying to convert to triathlons. I've run five marathons."

Montano said his best marathon time was two hours and 43 minutes at the San Diego Marathon in 2000.

"I enjoyed the Dexheim Biathlon. It was fun, a pretty nice course — lots of downhill and uphill," he said. "It was nice to have good competition."

"I just love to compete," Montano added. "I'll see if I can enter more of these types of competitions."

Hanau's Gail Gilderoy was the first woman to cross the finish line in a time of 1:38:35.

The 104th Area Support Group member of the Laufen Crew said she was nervous before the event, but felt fine once it started. "This was my fourth run of the year, but my very first biathlon," said Gilderoy.

"I started cycling last summer and I teach a spin class at Pioneer Fitness Center. I felt great out there. The course was awesome."

Gilderoy, who placed eighth overall, said it was fun putting the pressure on her male competitors. "I knew I was smoking some of them. It was fun beating guys — I like that a lot."

Gilderoy said advice from her fellow runner, Jessica Winter, has led her to change her running style. "I'm trying to take longer strides to improve my times."

Other top finishers at the Dexheim Biathlon were: **Men** — Walter Johnston, third place in 1:23:52; **Women** — Jessica Geffre, second place in 1:41:18; and Jessica Winter, third in 1:46:37.

Team 221st Sports and Fitness kicks off a group running club this month that meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m. and two Saturdays (July 10 and Aug. 7) from 8-9:30 a.m. Call mil 337-5943 for more information.

Sports shorts

Benefit Golf Tourney

A Benefit Golf Tournament for the American Red Cross will be held June 26 and 27 at Wiesbaden's Rheinblick Golf Course. For more information and to register call Philip Haleen, president of the American German Business Club, at civ (069) 631 56120 or send an email to phaleen@faegre.com.

YS sports enrollment

The 414th Base Support Battalion Youth Services hold enrollment for soccer, flag football and cheerleading for youths age 3-15 through July 20. Register at the CLEOS Office in Building 20 on Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne.

Baseball clinics

Members of Northern League Minor League baseball teams will be conducting baseball clinics in Butzbach June 12, Hanau June 13 and Baumholder June 14. The clinics will feature Lyle Prempas, Rickie Morton, Joliet Jackhammers, Ian Church and two former Major Leaguers — Mike Marshall and Darryl Motley. For more information about the clinics in Butzbach call mil 343-8216/7028, in Hanau call mil 322-9909/8636 or Baumholder call mil 485-6756. (*MWR Europe Marketing*)

3-on-3 basketball

The 284th Base Support Battalion holds a 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament June 12-13 at Giessen's Miller Hall. Team entry fee is \$35 per four-person team. Sign up at the Miller Hall or Friedberg's Ray Barracks Fitness Center.

Commander's Cup

The Commander's Cup golf championship will be held June 26 starting at 9 a.m. at Baumholder's Rolling Hills Golf Course. Entry fee is \$25. Non-members pay a greens fee. Sign up by June 23. Call mil 485-7299.

Thunder Thump Softball

The 221st Base Support Battalion Sports and Fitness holds its sixth annual Thunder Thump Softball Tournament for six-man, unit-level teams June 18-20 in Dexheim. Call mil 337-5943 for more information.

Trainers available

Personal trainers are available at the Tony Bass and Dexheim Fitness Centers to help design a personal fitness program. Cost is \$35 per session. For more information call mil 337-5943 or civ (0611) 705-5943.

Lacrosse showdown

Frankfurt Cosmos' Chris Ehlgren attacks Hamburg's goal during their semifinal matchup at the German Lacrosse Championships in Frankfurt May 29. Right photo: Frankfurt's Matt Roy keeps the game flowing. Frankfurt's men claimed third place behind BLAX Berlin and HTHC Hamburg.

Photos by Karl Weisel

